

URBAN DISTRICT OF  
AMBLESIDE.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

**1926.**

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1927.

“ HERALD ” PRINTING WORKS, AMBLESIDE. TEL. 64.

## URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLESIDE.

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Ambleside.

Sir, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information my Annual Report on the health of your district for the year 1926.

After the more extensive Survey Report for the year 1925, it again takes the form of an ordinary report as defined in paragraph 3 of Circular 743 of the 20th December, 1926, prepared on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health, and containing but a brief outline of the more important phases of the work.

I would take this opportunity of acknowledging the very valuable assistance I have received from all your officials, but especially would I mention the work of the Sanitary Inspector, which has been most efficient, prompt and reliable, thus enabling me to keep in touch with all that is transpiring.

My thanks are also due to the Medical Profession for their valuable assistance in furthering the interests of Public Health. Statutory notifications are with few exceptions regularly complied with.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westmorland Combined Districts.

March 8th, 1927.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

Area (acres) ... ..	4,425
Population (census 1921) ... ..	2,876
Population (estimated 1926) ... ..	2,259
Number of inhabited houses (census 1921) ... ..	535
Number of families or separate occupiers (census 1921) ... ..	540
Rateable Value ... ..	£24,015
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£90 10s. 0d.

This is a residential and holiday resort, and has no large industries.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Births (legitimate) .....	11	18	{ 31
„ (illegitimate) ...	1	1	
Birth Rate ...	13.7		
Deaths .....	14	14	28
Death Rate ...	12.4		

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth:—

From Sepsis ... ..	Nil.
Other Causes ... ..	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births:—

Legitimate, 34.	Illegitimate, Nil.	Total, 32.
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil.	
„ „ Whooping-cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil.	
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ..	Nil.	

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year nor has there been any specially noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the district.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
IN THE AREA.

Hospital.	Situation.	Accommodation.
Tuberculosis ... ..	Meathop Sanatorium, Grange-over-Sands ...	150 beds
Maternity ... ..	County Hospital, Kendal ...	6 beds
Children ... ..	Nil.	Nil.
Smallpox ... ..	Woodside, near Kendal ...	50 beds
Fever ... ..	The Sanatorium, Kendal ...	46 beds
Ethel Hedley Hospital		
School (Orthopædic) ... ..	Calgarth, Windermere ...	30 beds
Venereal Disease ... ..	North Lonsdale Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness ...	—

The Westmorland County Hospital, Kendal, contains 54 beds, available for all Non-infectious, Medical and Surgical cases, and a Maternity Ward of 6 beds. It is supported by voluntary contributions.

#### INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ETC. :—

St. Monica's Maternity Home, Kendal, under the control of the Carlisle Diocesan Maternity Committee.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES :—

- (a) Infectious cases—Removed by the Kendal Ambulance.
- (b) Non-infectious cases—St. John Ambulance Brigade.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES :—

Tuberculosis Dispensary. At Kendal.

Travelling School Dental Clinic.

Orthopædic Clinic at Ethel Hedley Hospital, Calgarth, Windermere.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic has been started during the year, and is held at the Church Hall, where there is a Waiting Room and a Consulting Room. The cost is borne by the County Council.

#### STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or part time.	Other Offices.	Salaries contributed under P.H.A. or Exchequer Grants.
W. B. Cockill	M.D., etc. D.P.H.	M.O.H.	Part	M.O.H. Westmorland Combined Districts	Yes
E. Dunbavand	A.M.I.C.E. A.R.San.I.	Sanitary Inspector	Part	Surveyor	Yes

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME :—

- (a) General ... District Nursing Association.
- (b) Infectious Disease, e.g.  
Measles, etc. ... District Nursing Association.

District Nursing Associations are voluntary organisations receiving grants in aid from the County Council.

MIDWIVES :—There are no practising midwives.

CHEMICAL WORK :—Is under the supervision of the County Council.

## LEGISLATION IN FORCE :—

Adopted.

Sanitary Clauses Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	1891
Sanitary Clauses Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	1908
Public Health Act, 1925	1925

**Bye-laws.**

New Streets and Buildings	...	...	1887 & 1924
Slaughter-houses	...	...	1887
Prevention of Nuisances	...	...	1887
Pleasure Grounds	...	...	1887 & 1902

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**WATER :—**An abundant, constant supply of water of exceptionally pure quality is obtained locally from Scandale Beck, and is laid on to all dwellings except in the isolated houses at considerable distance from the services. These few depend upon adjacent springs for their drinking supply.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS :—**No complaints of pollution have been received.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :—**The sewerage system is satisfactory. The effluent from the filters is exceptionally clear and fulfils the requirements of the Fisheries Board. The renewal of the Filtering Media will be undertaken at an early date.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION :—**

Houses with w.c.'s connected to sewers	...	554
"    "    "    "    "    cesspools	...	28
"    "    privies	...	14
"    "    privies or pails connected to sewers	...	24
Total		620

No conversions have been made during the year.

**SCAVENGING :—**The scavenging is done by the Local Authority by direct labour, the refuse being tipped at the Sewage Works and afterwards covered with a layer of soil. All ashpits and ashbins are disinfected at the time of emptying. Two ashbins have been substituted for ashpits.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA :—**Systematic inspections are made of the whole area and the after-mentioned defects have been noted and remedied :—

Defective drains	...	16
"    w.c.'s	...	7
"    ashpits	...	27
"    ashbins	...	19
"    water supply	...	6
"    waterspouts	...	3
"    gullies	...	11
"    yard-paving	...	4
"    accumulations of manure	...	5
"    damp walls	...	3

The four slaughter-houses in the area are very frequently inspected; in no instance has any nuisance been discovered.

SMOKE ABATEMENT :—No nuisance has arisen from smoke in the area.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS :—The requirements of all Acts are rigidly enforced. There are no underground sleeping quarters or offensive trades in the area.

SCHOOLS :—The sanitation and water supply to the public elementary schools are most satisfactory.

### HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year	...	4
At the present time an old house is in course of reconstruction into two dwellings, whilst the stable is being transformed into a cottage.		
There are no State aided houses—all the above being by private enterprise.		
Number of houses (State aided) built by the Local Authority		Nil.
Number of houses (State aided) built by other persons	...	Nil.
1.—Unfit Dwelling-houses :—		
Inspection.—(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	59
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Reg., 1925	... ..	13
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	Nil.
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	Nil.
2.—Remedy of defects without service of formal notices		Nil.
3.—Action under Statutory Powers	... ..	Nil.
A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925		Nil.
B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts—		
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		23
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) by owners	... ..	23
(b) by the Local Authority in default of owners...		Nil.
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925	... ..	Nil.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK :—Persons and premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :—

Premises where milk is produced	...	6
Number of Purveyors ...	...	9
Number of Producers ...	...	6
Distributors of Grade "A" Milk	...	2

Two licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, for the sale of Grade "A" (tuberculin tested) Milk by dealers. The requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, are being enforced in the area. Structural alterations will be necessary in order that the buildings shall conform to the Act. The general condition of the animals as regards cleanliness is not pleasing, and the farmers and cow-keepers resent any improvement.

MEAT :—There are four licensed slaughter-houses which are in a satisfactory condition. The premises, plant and utensils are periodically inspected. Limewashing is done regularly and the condition of the meat is satisfactory.

OTHER FOODS :—The premises upon which foodstuffs are prepared for sale are in good sanitary condition. Minor defects are at once remedied. Whitewashing is done at regular intervals.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been very little notifiable infectious disease during the year.

Diphtheria antitoxin is issued free for the treatment of all necessitous cases, excepting patients under the National Health Insurance Act; also for both necessitous and insured persons for prophylactic purposes.

Notifications under the Regulations of 7th January, 1919, have not been useful.

The Combined Districts of Westmorland have provided laboratories at Kendal, to which any practitioner may send specimens for examination. Sputum is also examined at Meathop Sanatorium. The following have been done for the Urban District of Ambleside :—

## DIPHTHERIA.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests, nor have any vaccinations been performed by the Medical Officer of Health. Close liaison with the School Medical Officer exists, so that school intimations of disease are freely available.

No facilities exist for disinfestation. Disinfection with formalin has been carried out after infectious cases, and in other instances by request, where illness has occurred.



## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1926.

Disease.	Total.	Years.						Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.	65
		1	4	5	15	45	65			
Scarlet Fever ...	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia .....	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases.					Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Age Periods.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 ...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total ...	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-

No death from Tuberculosis was registered which had not been previously notified. The notification of Tuberculosis has invariably been carried out. No action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Section 62, Public Health Act, 1925, has been required.

Tuberculosis, Venereal Disease, and Maternity and Child Welfare are under the supervision of the County Council.



# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

		Inspections.		Notices.
Factories...	...	16	...	—
Workshops	...	47	...	—
Workplaces	...	16	...	—
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		79		Nil.

## DEFECTS.

Want of cleanliness	...	...	7
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	1
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	2
			<hr/>
		Total ...	10

